

The Church would honor those who were killed in action during the War by placing a gold star next to their name on the Honor Roll. Six members of the Church were killed in action during World War II and received this honor.

About ten years ago, the Church recognized its only member to be killed in action during World War I by adding his name to the Honor Roll along with a gold star.

Every year on Memorial Day, the Church holds a ceremony to honor its seven Gold Star Members.

On Sunday, May 30, 2010 the Church will pay tribute to the seven Gold Star Members of the Church by dedicating a memorial stone in front of the church in their honor.

The seven Gold Star Members, and Wilkes-Barre natives, being honored are:

Private William Robbins who was killed in Germany in World War I. He was only sixteen years old.

Private First Class Charles Grosspietsch who was killed in Luzon in the Philippines during World War II. He was 20 years old.

Corporal Kenneth Hobbs who was killed in Whelan, Germany during World War II. He was 28 years old.

Private First Class Robert Hummel who was killed in Germany during World War II. He was 21 years old.

Private William Parry, Jr. who died at Normandy during World War II. He was 24 years old.

Private William L. Richards who was killed in Anzio, Italy during World War II. He was 22 years old.

Staff Sergeant Thomas D. Williams who was killed in Russeisheim, Germany during World War II. He was 24 years old.

The memorial stone will be unveiled by Jack Johnson, the last surviving World War II veteran of the Church.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring these brave men who gave their lives protecting our country. This stone will serve as a reminder for future generations of the ultimate sacrifice made by these seven men who came before them.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of seniors, Social Security and Medicare.

Social Security and Medicare are among the most important programs ever created by our Government. Older Americans have worked hard and sacrificed themselves to ensure a better, stronger country for future generations. They deserve a secure, healthy retirement.

Together, Social Security and Medicare have helped tens of millions of seniors avoid poverty, enjoy better health, and maintain a respectable standard of living. For countless seniors, Medicare has literally saved their lives, giving access to medical treatment they would otherwise have been unable to afford.

These programs are a measure of what we truly value, and who we are as a Nation.

It was not always this way. Prior to the establishment of Medicare in 1965, a serious ill-

ness or hospitalization could easily bankrupt not only a senior, but his or her entire family. A single serious illness—a round of pneumonia, or a broken hip—could render an elderly man or woman destitute. Too often, our elders simply went without needed medical care, suffering and even dying because decent health care was out of reach.

I bring this up today to underscore the need for vigilance in protecting Medicare and Social Security from those that seek to privatize these vital programs. Indeed, the retirement and health security of today's retirees, today's workers, and future generations rests on the decisions that Congress makes on these programs.

During the year-long debate over health care reform, we heard a great deal of rhetoric from our Republican colleagues about the need to protect Medicare. Yet when given the chance to strengthen Medicare by providing better benefits, lowering costs, and preserving Medicare's solvency for years to come, my Republican colleagues unanimously voted no.

In opposing Health Care Reform, my colleagues said no to free preventive care for seniors, no to ending the 'donut hole' for prescription drug coverage and lowering prescription drug costs, and no to more time with and better access to primary care physicians.

Further, while erroneously assailing health reform legislation as detrimental to seniors and Medicare, the ranking Republican member on the House Committee on the Budget introduced H.R. 4529, the Roadmap for America's Future, which purports to rescue and strengthen Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, allowing them to fulfill their missions and making them permanently solvent—all while putting the federal budget on a sustainable path. If this were true, I would be the first in line to cosponsor the legislation.

However, analysis of the "Roadmap for America's Future" by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities revealed the plan "would raise taxes for most middle-income families, privatize a substantial portion of Social Security, eliminate the tax exclusion for employer-sponsored health insurance, end traditional Medicare and most of Medicaid, and terminate the Children's Health Insurance Program. The plan would replace these health programs with a system of vouchers whose value would erode over time and thus would purchase health insurance that would cover fewer health care services as the years went by."

What I find most disturbing about this proposal is the failure to acknowledge a connection between the recent volatility of the stock market and the effect that would have on privatized Social Security accounts. When a trillion dollars of wealth can disappear in 30 minutes, as it did on May 6, 2010, we know that the stock market is not the place for seniors' life savings. Privatization, or partial privatization, of the Social Security system would have been disastrous for millions of senior citizens that depend on their Social Security checks every month. Likewise, replacing Medicare with a voucher system and letting seniors fend for themselves on the private market would leave our seniors with less and less care every year.

America's seniors have worked long and hard to build a prosperous Nation, yet too many seniors in this country saw their retirement savings get decimated by President Bush's economic crisis. I rise today to assure

seniors that I and the Democrats in Congress will continue to stand firmly opposed to any and all efforts to privatize Social Security or turn Medicare into a voucher program. Moreover, we will continue to take a leading role to improve—rather than undermine—Social Security and Medicare.

HONORING THE HUMAN LOSS AT DEEPWATER HORIZON

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, on April 20, Louisiana lost eleven fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons at the Deepwater Horizon accident in the Gulf. Sorrow for their deaths is borne across our State.

As we focus our energies on stopping the spill, it is important that we focus our prayers on the families who are grieving the loss of loved ones. We cannot lose sight of the fact that this incident began—and is—a painful human tragedy, and I am thankful for all of those in Louisiana who are consoling these families and providing comfort in their time of need.

In mourning their loss, we should also recognize their contributions to Louisiana and the Nation.

As this event makes painfully clear, energy security, even at home, is not won easily. The men and women who work on rigs and pipelines endure long hours, tough conditions, and considerable risk to provide us with the energy our Nation needs to prosper.

To all of those who make this sacrifice on the Nation's behalf, thank you. And to the families who lost loved ones, our prayers are with you and we are here for you.

IN RECOGNITION OF DELFINA TELLES

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Delfina Telles, former first lady of El Paso, Texas, who passed away on May 6, 2010 in Los Angeles, California at the age of 93. Delfina was a devoted wife and mother who was passionate about her community and work in public service. I am proud to pay tribute today to such a giving woman.

Delfina was the wife of Raymond Telles, who served as El Paso's first Hispanic Mayor from 1957–1961. Mr. Telles was also appointed as ambassador to Costa Rica by President Kennedy, during which time Delfina became active in civil affairs, including leading fundraising drives for a children's hospital and a rehabilitation center for children with disabilities in Costa Rica.

Delfina is recognized and remembered for her commitment to non-profit organizations and charity work. She worked tirelessly on behalf of such organizations as the March of Dimes, was co-chairperson of the annual Easter Seal Drive for El Paso's Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center, served on the Pan-American Round Table and the Woman's Auxiliary